

CANADIAN SPORTS

Martini and Underhill take on-ice knowledge into booth

by SARA BENNETT

Former athletes tend to be naturals in the broadcast booth because of their vast knowledge of their sports. And two in the booth are even better than one.

Paul Martini and Barbara Underhill, the 1984 world champions in pairs figure skating, are set to call the World Junior Championships from Colorado Springs, Colo., on Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, on CBC.

In addition to their broadcasting schedule, Martini and Underhill still compete professionally on occasion, as they did recently in Dick Button's pro. event and in the Challenge of Champions from Toronto.

"We basically free lance," Martini says. "We do one-night stands, TV specials." The duo made a guest appearance in "Rita MacNeil's Once Upon a Christmas" on Dec. 12.

Martini and Underhill, both from Ontario, have been analysts for CBC since March of 1991. They are licensed for two more skating events on CBC this season - the European Championships from Copenhagen, Denmark, and the World Championships from Japan.

Their history as pairs skaters, however, dates back even further. The two were looking for suitable partners in 1977 - when he was 16 and she had just turned 13.

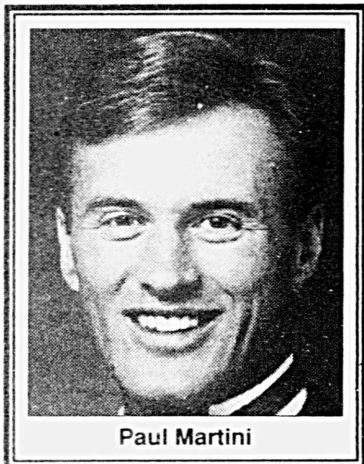
"We actually competed against each other as junior pairs competitors, with different partners," Martini says. "After the Canadian Championships in '77, people said, 'you're both looking, give it a go.'" The two have been together ever since, although Martini admits there has been no particular reason for their compatibility.

"There's no rhyme, reason or pattern to it whatsoever," he says. Martini was able to make the jump into broadcasting relatively easily, because he views each event he calls as his own kind of competition.

"It's a one-shot deal," he says, "unlike doing a commercial or a special. If I flub up, we can always revoice it, but the moment's gone. It's like being a competitor again. I really enjoy that aspect of it."

Canada will enter a number of skaters in the Junior Championships, including the pairs team of Caroline Haddad and Jean-Sebastien Fecteau, whom Martini thinks will shine.

"It's a tough one to say who's going to do well, but I think we have an outstanding chance of winning a medal in the pairs event," he says. "They've (Haddad/Fecteau) had an excellent early season. And I think our men have a chance of being top five here."



Paul Martini

Listings are provided by the stations. The Prince George Citizen is not responsible for program changes.

★ ★ ★

STATION GUIDE

STATION	Prince George	Mackenzie	Vanderhoof
CITV, Edmonton	(2)	(5)	(2)
CKPG, (CBC), Prince George	[2] (3)	[6] (3)	[6] (3)
Real Estate Teleguide	(4)	(2)	
CBC (French), Vancouver	[4] (5)	(7)	(5)
KING (NBC), Seattle	(6)	(11)	
KIRO (CBS), Seattle	(7)	(6)	
KOMO (ABC), Seattle	(8)	(8)	
KCTS (PBS), Seattle	(9)		
Shaw Cable 10	(10)		
BCTV (CTV), Vancouver	[12] (11)	[13] (13)	[8] (8)
KNOW, Knowledge Network	(13)	(12)	(13)
*CNN HEADLINE NEWS	(14)		
*A & E Arts & Entertainment	(15)	(16)	(16)
*TSN, The Sports Network	(16)	(18)	(10)
*CNN, Cable News Network	(17)		(19)
*TNN, The Nashville Network	(18)	(22)	
*CMT, Country Music Television	(19)		
*MMN, MuchMusic Network	(20)		
*CHCH, Hamilton	(21)	(4)	
**The Family Channel	(22)	(20)	(20)
**Superchannel	(23)	(21)	(21)
**TBS, Atlanta Superstation	(24)	(17)	(12)
**WGN, Chicago Superstation	(25)		(4)
YTV, Youth Television	(26)	(23)	(23)
CBC, Newsworld	(27)		(24)
Vision TV	(28)		(25)
Canadian Home Shopping Network	(29)		
House of Commons	(30)		(28)
*TV 5 French	(31)		

*Full Cable Service Package**Premium Service Channels

Note: Now included in TV TIMES are all Premium Service Channels

TV Times INDEX

Around the Dial	2
Canadian Sports	3
Spotlite on Sports	4 & 5
Cover Story:	
Wishin' & hoping	6 & 7
SATURDAY	8 - 12
Soap Scoop	13
Movie Highlights	14 - 17
SUNDAY	18 - 22
TV Spotlight;	
TV Pipeline	23
DAYTIME	24 - 26
Shaw Cable 10	27
Superchannel	28 - 30
TV Business Directory	31
MONDAY	32 & 33
TUESDAY	34 & 35
Prime Times Feature	36
Inside Canada	37
WEDNESDAY	38 & 39
THURSDAY	40 & 41
VideoFile:	
Rescued by charisma	42
FRIDAY	44 & 45
Time Out	46
Movie Marquee	47

Concerns about cable television service can be addressed to:

The Cable Television Standards Council

220, Laurier Avenue West, Suite 560
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z8